Featuring select works by:

[redacted]

And [redacted]

What is The Golden Zine

The Golden Zine is an attempted revival of independently published zines. Issues are released **digital only** at the author's discretion. The values expressed by this publication are as follows:

The Golden Zine is a bastion of unhindered creation. Works that are tasteless, weird, unpolished, reactionary, cringe, or downright queer are valued over the alternative. We believe that art deserves to exist, no matter it's ethos.

Note that the Golden Zine is not school affiliated and thus does not reflect the opinions of school administration or whatever legal stuff you're supposed to say to not get in trouble.

NG

It's Not What It Looks Like

Written by: [redacted]

It was mid-morning on a Thursday in the Gar Bagé Trailer Park. There live three boys who love to go on adventures. Today, we're focusing on one run-down white mobile home, Korey's house. As the sun rises higher, let's see what adventure awaits them.

"I knew this was a stupid idea," Korey mumbled to himself, "I better take this off…" He stood in front of his fridge looking at his reflection.

He lets out a sigh and reaches to take off what he was wearing, when out of nowhere someone starts banging on Korey's front door.

"Korey, you missed the bus again, " a familiar voice says, "That's the third time this week, keep this up you will fail the 8th grade… again."

As Korey listens to the voice behind the door, slowly he realizes who it is. Korey says in a panicked whisper, "Shoot, it's Jamal," he can't see me like this," Korey looks over at his reflection," He DEFINITELY can't see me like this!"

" Are you awake?" Jamal asks as he subtly continues to bang on the door.

Feeling panicked and not knowing what to do, Korey attempts to run to the bathroom but slips on a pile of trash in the process, making a loud crashing noise.

Jamal called out, "Korey? Are you alright? I'm coming in." Jamal reaches for the door handle, knowing Korey never locks the front door.

As he twisted the handle, Korey shouted, "No! Do not open the door!"

Jamal takes his hands off the handle, "Oh, you are awake," and he reaches back for it.

Korey, pleading, says, "Wait, please don't open the door!"

While opening up the door slowly, Jamal questions, "Why do you not want me to enter so badly…" He takes a second to think, "Oh come on really? You're doing that first thing in the morning?" Jamal goes and gives the door its final push.

"Jamal, no, don't you dare open that door," Korey pleaded one last time. He attempted to get up and shut the door but he slipped on the trash, again.

It's nothing I haven't seen before," Jamal reassures Korey, as he enters the house covering his eyes.

Seeing Jamal in the doorway, Korey lets out a gulp, " I think it is."

"What?" Jamal asks in confusion, as Jamal slowly uncovers his eyes, "It can't be that ba…" with his eyes now uncovered Jamal is in awe. He sees the helpless Korey on the floor surrounded by trash.

The two of them locked eyes with their mouths agape, it was silent for a good minute, Korey was just sitting there petrified.

Jamal closed his mouth, gulped, and said, "Hey Korey?"

"Yea Jamal?" Korey replied, still petrified.

"Why…" Jamal had to pause and gulp again, " Why are you…" he took one final gulp, "Why are you wearing a dress?"

Korey replies "It's not what it looks like," as he continues to lay on the floor.

Jamal walking towards him says, "It's okay Korey, I'll support you no matt-" Korey covered Jamal's mouth before he could finish that sentence.

"I am not one of those people," Korey replied, using Jamal as support. Korey was able to get back on his feet.

"Then what are you? A crossdresser or something?" Jamal asked while Korey was getting up.

Korey then lets out a sigh, "It'll take too long to explain."

"Well, we already missed the bus so we have all the time in the world," Jamal responded.

Korey huffed out another sigh, "Alright…" The two of them then sat on trash bags in the kitchen as if they were bean bags, and Korey explained the whole situation. By the time he was done, it was almost noon.

"So you're trying to catfish strange men on the internet to give you money because you saw someone else do it?" Jamal asked in confusion.

"Something like that…" Korey says," But it was a stupid idea!"

"Yeah, I mean you look nothing like a girl," Jamal adds, he squints his eyes and speaks again, "Well, I don't know…" He lifted Korey's chin, "I've never been into Latina chicks so maybe you're just not my type."

Korey smacks Jamal's hands away, "Yeah that's the problem, not the fact that I'm myself just in a dress."

Jamal raises his eyebrow, "Where did you even get the dress?"

Korey stares at Jamal in annoyed shock, "It's my mom's."

Jamal repeated, "Your mom's?"

"My mom's, yes…" Korey answered, nodding his head slowly.

"I think we need Cavin's opinion on this new look," Jamal suggested.

Korey exclaims, "No, we don't need Cav-" Before he can finish the door slams open and a familiar friend walks in.

"Hee yevyerybody," Cavin shouts with excitement, he observes the room and sees the situation, " Oh, ladyboy?"

Korey sighs and stomps his feet, reaching to take off his dress, but Jamal stops him, "No you're not done with your catfish makeover."

Cavin tilts his head, "catfeesh makyeovyer?"

"Yeah, Korey's trying to get men on the internet to give him money," Jamal snickers

Ee leekye5 monyey," Cavin says," Can ee do eet too?"

"Sure," Jamal replied

Korey starts to mumble inaudible words, " What was that?" Jamal asked.

"I said," Korey grinned, "If we're catfishing, you are too."

"No thanks, I actually have…" Jamal nervously trying to find an excuse, "A bus to catch..?" He realized that lie wasn't going to work, so he then rushed to the front door but Korey grabbed his hair.

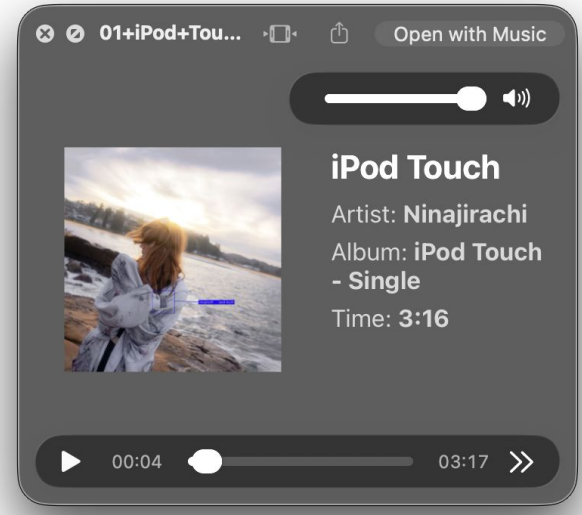
"Ow!" Jamal screams, " Not the hair. Not the hair!"

Korey, who still has a death grip on Jamal's hair, says, " What do you think, Cavin? Pigtails or braids?"

Cavin replies,"vhy not both?" The two snicker.

It took them till late afternoon to get done with their makeovers, which happens to be the same time Korey's mom gets home. Let's just say she was not expecting to see her son wearing one of her dresses and have make-up smeared on his face.

"Wait, Mom, it's not what it looks like!"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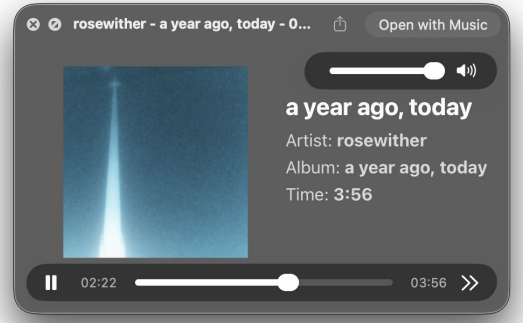
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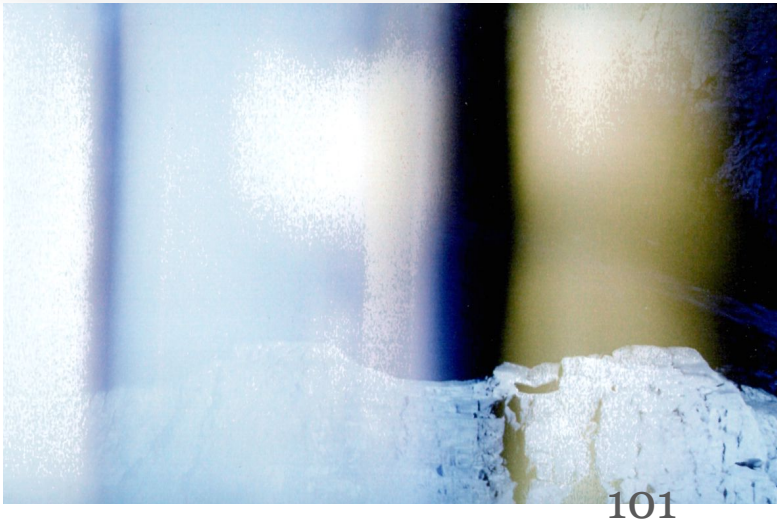
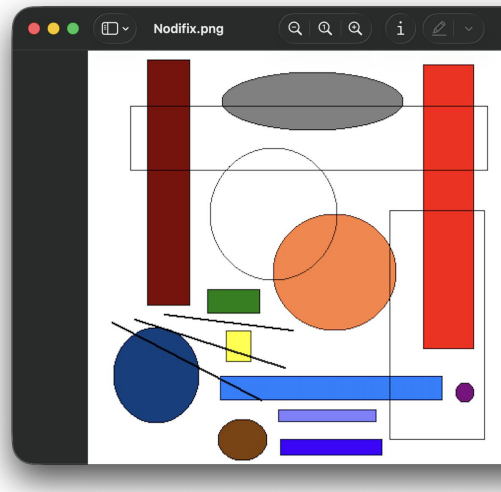



Nodifix.png

Untitled

[redacted]

The Gospel is the main point of Christianity or the main message. The word Gospel means good news and I'm going to talk about exactly what it is(I'm going to explain it the most informative way I can) . So it goes like this, when the first humans were created by God (Adam and Eve) in the garden of Eden everything was perfect. There were animals, trees, fruit and it was as some people would say paradise, where Adam and Eve would walk and talk with God without any problem.There was on tree that god told the humans not to eat but one day they were tempted by a serpent (the Devil) and were banished out of the garden(and so was the serpent) because they sinned and the requirements to stay in the garden and to go to Heaven is perfection.

So you might be wondering how does this story apply today, well now we liver in a world of sin and destruction and we know that everybody, yes EVERYBODY has sinned and it shows us in Romans 3:23 witch says" For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God". and a little further in the bible Romans 6:23 it tells us this"For the wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our lord" so if all have sinned and the wages of sin is death how is this good news you might be wondering and here's how, so if commit a crime and go before a judge lets say you stole something and the judge ask you why do you think i should let you go and you say because im good person and have done lots of good things do they think there going to let go? No of course not, so now we know we can't work our way to Heaven we can't get to Heaven by doing good things and God is perfect so you know he's a just judge so the only way you can get out of there is if someone comes who hasn't committed the crime and pays your bail. Now how that translates to us is were in that situation we've all sinned and that sin represents the crime in the story and the wages of sin is death which represents jail in the story now we also know we cant work our way to Heaven so the only way we can get to Heaven is if someone who didn't sin paid the price for us (witch is death) so God being all knowing knew that and he loved us so much that he sent his son Jesus who is still God, was born the same way we were but of a virgin and had to go thru life just like me and you he was up in the highest place but because he loved us so much he came to help us, so Jesus lived life and thought people and had disciples that followed him and learned from him and he went threw life and don't sin, not once and went around and did signs and wonders (Because he's God. I'll explain the trinity in a different writing) and he was sentenced to death by crucifixion for mainly blasphemy when he did nothing wrong, he did claim to be god but the head jews could not see that he was the messiah when many jews in that time did, and the whipped him and spit at him while he carried his cross up a hill to the place where he would be crucified and he died that day for all of are sins. Three days later to of his friends went to visit the tomb and the stone had been rolled away and there was no one inside because he rose from the dead (Again he's God) and appeared to many people before he ascended into heaven and he we return back to bring the righteous with him at a time we don't know.

So the recap is that we have all sinned and have fallen short of the glory of god and the wages of sin is death so we all deserve Hell but Jesus came and died on the cross for are sins so we can have a chance at eternal life, and the ways we get to Heaven are by repenting and believing in the gospel and having a personal relationship with god.(There's more about actually being a Christian but i'll talk about that next time)

FACT:

YOU CAN'T BE A GOOD PERSON WHEN MORALITY IS FLUID AND HISTORY IS WRITTEN BY THE DOMINANT

"I'm better than you because of my aesthetics, morals, intellect, or social status."

"Fuck off asshat"

WE ARE ALL TERRIBLE FUCKING PEOPLE

PSA

100% of people do gross, inhumane, stupid, and evil shit regularly. What makes you think you're the exception?

Hierarchical thinking is what keeps the idea of morality alive.

If it were up to you fuckers we'd still have the HAYES CODE

DON'T KILL YOURSELF ASSHOLE

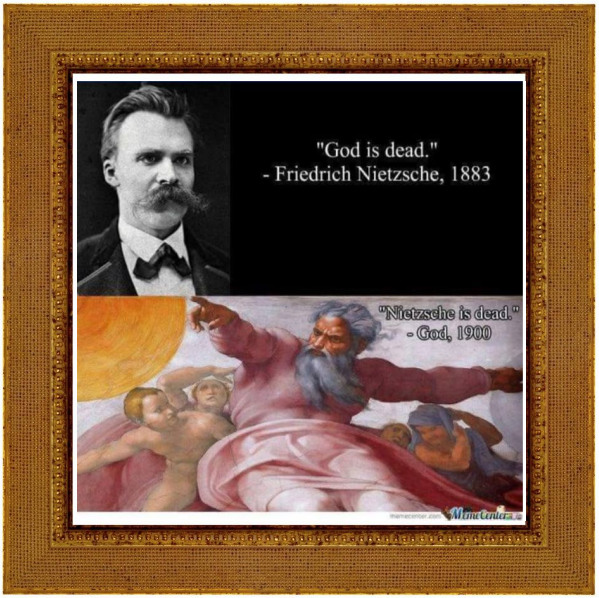
You are duty bound to your fellow man. All your heroes are perverts. Opposing truths are no less true. Live your life free of shackles. Be cringe. Be queer. Be true…

THE NERVOS PAPERS
MASS OF THE FERMENTING DREGS
DIY band
from [redacted]
Formed by a group of highschool friends, starting from singing tunes in their bedrooms.
SONGS:

On Mocking God

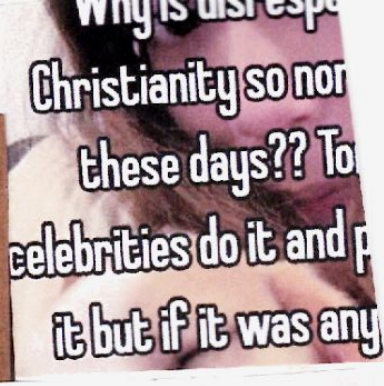
The Nodifix

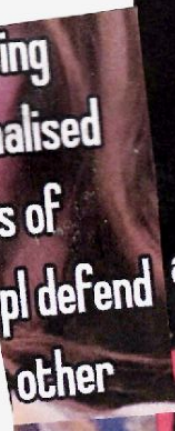
Written by: [redacted] ***Illustrations by: Anonymous Pinterest Girlies***



I've been on Pinterest a lot lately. In my mind, Pinterest was the most pure of social media apps. All it had was a collection of images and videos that you could save to look at later. The home page being presented as a gallery rather than a stream always made it more appealing to me. Something about being active in my doomscrolling rather than being at the whims of a single line of algorithmically generated videos gave me the confidence to spend time on it rather than more traditional social media apps. That being said, I am acutely aware of Pinterest's flaws. The absence of dates beside posts makes it hard to judge the relevance of the things you see. This leads to an odd contradiction wherein posts have simultaneously little relevance and all too much relevance. Pinterest cultivates a walled garden of sorts where culture does not grow naturally but rather is looked upon as if in a zoo. As such, this makes it difficult to discern specific trends when viewing them solely on Pinterest.

I think I've discerned a specific trend from looking at Pinterest. It goes a little something like this: I'm scrolling through whisper posts (anonymous text posts set atop a chosen image in the background). When a post comes up with a random celebrity utilizing Christian aesthetics and the words vaguely following: "why does [celebrity] think it's cool to mock god now?"


Christianity so nor
these days?? To
celebrities do it and p
it but if it was any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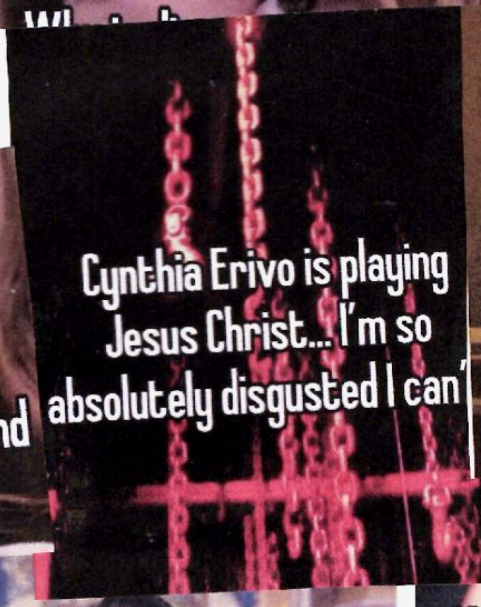
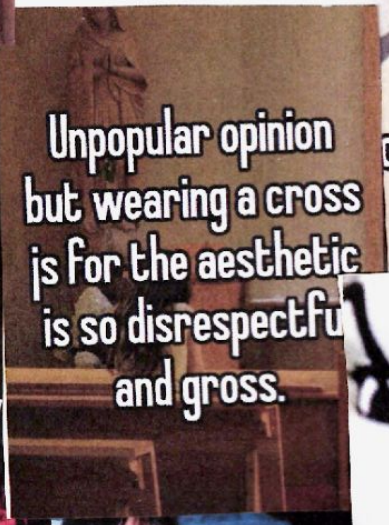
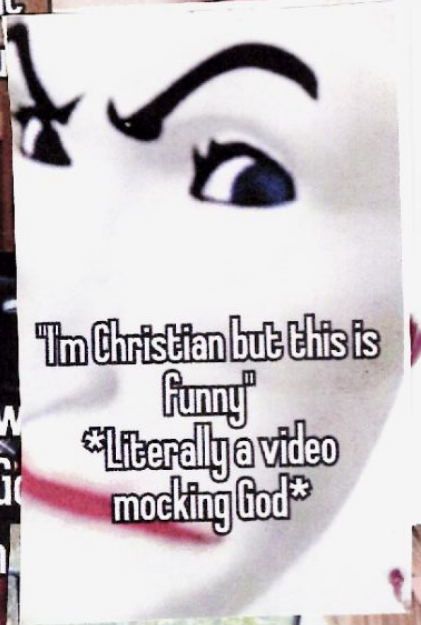
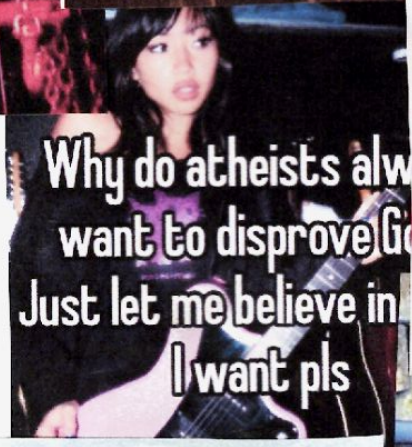
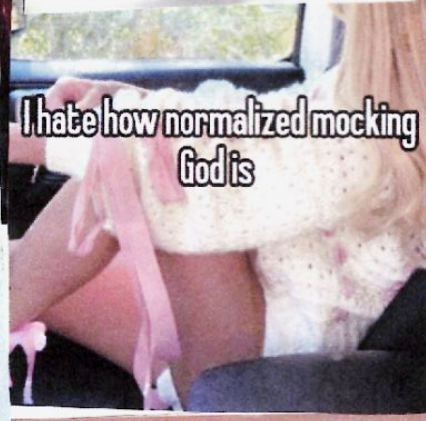

Cynthia Erivo is playing
Jesus Christ... I'm so
absolutely disgusted I can'

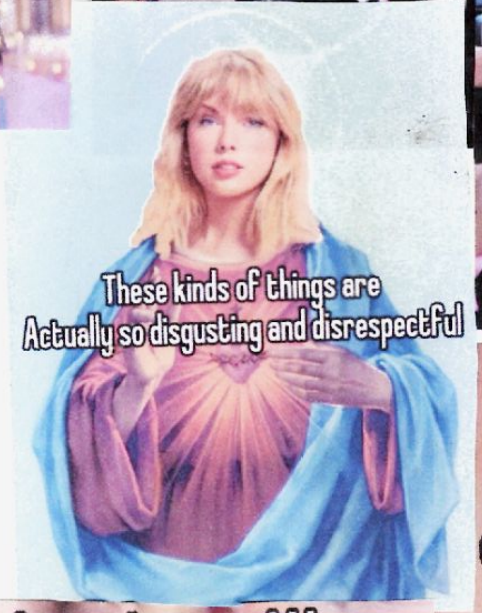

Unpopular opinion
but wearing a cross
is for the aesthetic
is so disrespectfu
and gross.

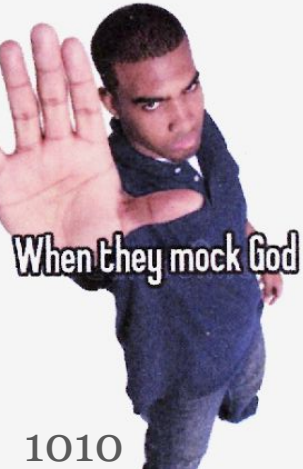

"I'm Christian but this is
funny"
*Literally a video
mocking God*

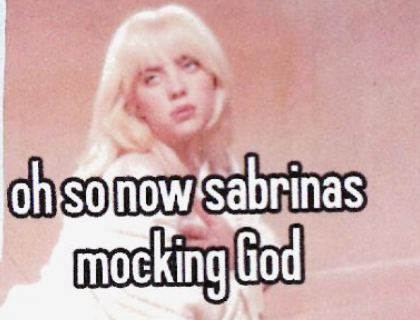
I hate it when music
artists film at Catholic
Churches while dressing
like this


Why do atheists alw
want to disprove G
Just let me believe in
I want pls


I hate how normalized mocking
God is


These kinds of things are
Actually so disgusting and disrespectful


When they mock God


oh so now sabrinas
mocking God

religion they would be

"Why does this interest you? Why do people think it's cool to mock god? What even is this "God" thing?"

Friedrich Nietzsche is quoted in saying, "God is dead. God remains dead. And we have killed him. How shall we comfort ourselves, the murderers of all murderers?" It is important to note the certainty with which Nietzsche writes these words. There is no conjecture as to whether or not God is still with us. Just as Christians are certain God is living, Nietzsche is certain we have killed him.

God as an idea has existed for longer than written history. It is likely that humanity will never live to the point of forgetting that a religion has ever existed. If this is the case, what could lead Nietzsche to say such a thing?

One interpretation of Nietzsche's claim posits that God is dead because he is no longer needed in modern life. Mythology is formed primarily to explain societal unknowns. Before scientists found our place in the universe, gods drove the movement of the heavens and earth. Apollo rode his chariot across the sky, fairies replaced otherwise normal children with changelings, and the devil encouraged good men to do evil. In this setting, the Abrahamic God exists to make sense of what takes place outside of humanity. Namely, God explains what happens before and after human consciousness.

The book of Genesis in the Hebrew Bible details the creation of heaven and earth from the actions of a singular God. The creation of the earth brings along with it mankind and all animals within the Garden of Eden. When Genesis was written, it is assumed that the theory of evolution had not yet been fleshed out. It wouldn't be until the first scientific revolution that humanity's origins were explored beyond biblical canon.

The word of God was accepted as the truth by most in Christian society. Holding ideas that contradicted the church was met with derision, exile, and subsequent execution for the especially adamant. The governing mode of thought was through a literal interpretation of the bible. This being the case, the people in charge of distributing information relating to Christianity controlled the truth itself.

When Nietzsche states that God is dead, he suggests that these domineering societal structures are no longer in place. Scientific thinking has superseded the church in the public conscience. Under this interpretation, it's hard to see how a living god ever existed.

If one were to utilize stories from the Bible in serious, earnest debate (a stance known as biblical literalism), they would be almost immediately shut down. Biblical literalism has no place in moral or philosophical conversation. One has to accept that the great fish that swallowed Jonah whole was a fable, that the tower of Babel was a simple ziggurat, and that neither Adam nor Eve can coexist with modern theories. God is dead, and his word holds no more power than man's.

While science does an adequate job of explaining the physical world around us, there exists still an application for religion in the matter of death. It is a common Christian belief that a new life in heaven awaits us after death. This belief is attractive for multiple reasons. It is reassuring to know that the imminent milestone that is death is not the end, but the beginning of an infinite experience of pleasure and fulfillment. Similarly, belief in something greater than the life we are currently living reveals a purpose otherwise difficult to find. It is easy to believe that someone, somewhere, has a plan for us. That everything happens for a reason. Science places humanity in an isolated and insignificant position in the universe. Religion attempts to do the opposite.

"What does any of this have to do with those Pinterest posts you showed me? I mean, I understand the existentialism and all, but why frame it with some teenage girl's internet footprint?"

You are really quite perceptive.

"Thank you."

Of course.

Let me give you some of my credentials: I was raised Catholic. I attended Catholic Sunday school with special care. My parents both taught those classes in their free time. I never said the lord's name in vain, and if I ever missed Mass I would be quick to relay my sins to a priest in the sacrament of confession.

Suffice it to say, I was not well as a child. There were days when I believed my sin to be so unforgivable that I would try to starve myself or deprive myself of sleep. I had severe anger issues. I would go into fits of rage and tear up items around myself in an attempt to ease something that I could not control. What helped me was not praying to God, asking “why me” as tears streamed down my face. God seemed to talk to everyone else except me. They say God gives his toughest battles to his strongest warriors. I was not quite strong enough to ignore my physically abusive peers. Thus, I believed I deserved the abuse. God made me this way for a reason. If I couldn’t find him, it was my own damn fault.

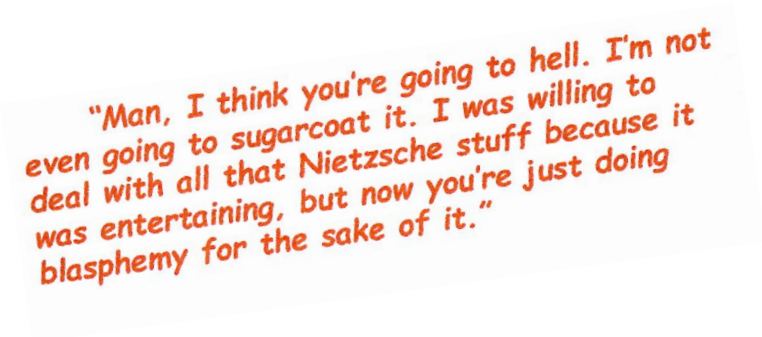
"Wow, that's pretty sad. What does this have to do with Pinterest?"

I'm getting there.

I didn't actually fully leave the church when I realized I wasn't getting anything out of it. There was always that small part of me that thought I could try harder. Surely the issue was that I wasn't trying to love God enough. Maybe if I dedicated myself to our lord and savior without any second thoughts, I would be able to hear his voice.

What made me leave the church without looking back was an inane little thought experiment I had while bored. I wondered: "What makes humans so special that we get a whole dude to die for our sins? Why don't like, pigs or something get their own Jesus Christ? I mean, with the rate of factory farming, we might as well have killed a hundred pig Christs…"

It was with this line of thought that I unraveled just how silly this whole situation was. Jesus Christ was just some guy. We made a cult around him, and now I can't say his name in vain? People actually dedicate their whole lives to this stuff? I ended up putting these thoughts and emotions into a digital artwork titled: ***May God's Sow Rest Peacefully Knowing Her Task Fulfilled*** (*pictured left*).



Maybe that's true. I've always admired Christians, despite everything. In the same way that a Christian may admire a Buddhist. I appreciate the way in which people can dedicate their lives to a cause, no matter the perceived untruth of it. Indeed, entire dynasties were constructed on the promise of Christian purity, cathedrals have been built, sculptures made, paintings drawn, all for the sake of God.

Which brings us back to Pinterest. If I were to choose a word to describe these posts I have assembled, It would be "Irreverent". The purpose in making whisper posts about what could be the most important thing in your finite life is entirely lost on me. What you are doing is defending a personal aspect of yourself under the facade of religious sanctity. I feel a deep sense of insecurity radiating from these images. From the anonymous medium to the nearly surreal choice of background. I mean no offense to the parties involved in the making of the posts. There are no incorrect ways to worship. However, there are aesthetically dissolute ways, and you have found them.

The irreverence of these posts stems from the casual misunderstanding of an incomprehensibly broad leg of history. The creators (Let's call them "artists") of the whispers believe that the general perception of Christianity is trending towards being unfavorable. The artists believe that certain notable people are partly responsible for such a negative perception.

It is important to note the usage of the word "Mock". Mocking implies imitation, a lesser offending a greater by tasteless simulation. Our artists have observed these notable people utilizing the signifiers of Christianity (crosses, nun garb, references to Jesus, Etc) and justifiably interpreted it as insulting or demeaning. The artist then connects this to a wider disdain for Christianity as a whole. Whether or not this shift has happened is entirely subjective and nearly impossible to prove. What the artist includes in their definition of "mocking" can range from active discrimination to simple denunciation of their religion. While we may never know the full context behind these posts, there is one thing that they all have in common.

The internet has a knack for showing you things that you want to see. "The internet" that I'm referring to is made up of algorithmically driven social platforms. These algorithms are specifically designed to find out what keeps you on the app the longest and serve it to you. Oftentimes, certain factual information will be omitted from your feed in favor of incorrect but morally aligned media. Social media has the power to control the truth itself, and it seems we take that for granted. It's almost as if it's a Godli-

Yeah, sorry. That was my bad.

Because social media platforms are attention-driven, it is possible to form a cycle wherein you linger too long on a post that offends your sensibilities, and the algorithm determines that you would like to see more of that genre of post. The more you see the offensive material, the more the algorithm pushes it. A recent linguistic advance terms this "rage baiting".

I believe the artists of the whisper posts have fallen for a more mild and personal form of rage baiting. They saw a celebrity "mocking" Christianity on a post, took a deeper look into people's reactions, thereby influencing the algorithm to show them more of that celebrity or topic, misinterpreted the increased frequency of the posts to be indicative of a larger shift in perception of Christianity, and posted to Pinterest about it.

I am describing in clinical terms an organic and idiosyncratic event that most people have experienced. The only thing special about this cycle is, in this case, the artists collectively determining that “mocked” was the best word to describe what has been happening to their religion.

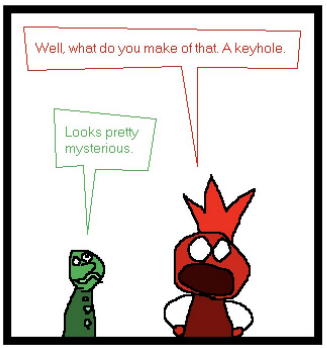
I wish I had more to say about this. I wish I could say for certain that whisper posts about your lord and savior are garish displays of irreverence. I wish that I could actually draw something important from this vague string of events. Sadly, I am only able to tell it how it is, and it is nothing more than mildly interesting.

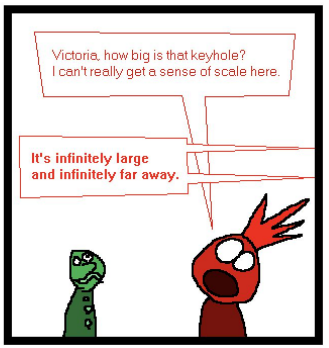
If you, the reader, were to gain anything from my writing, let it be this:

Get off the internet.
Whether you affiliate yourself with hyper-online radical groups, or regressive conservatism.
The internet is no place for man.
Talk to people.
Talk to religious leaders, teachers, friends, artists.
Talk to people who are good at what you enjoy.
Build communities outside of social media.
What you see online is only a fraction of the beauty, joy, pain, and feeling of the world around you.
You are being warped by the internet and being Pavloved into enjoying it.
Tell your friends you love them.
Leave your phone at home.
Be bored.
Think clearly.
Make good art.
Make bad art.
Live your life free of burdens.

The Nodifix is everyone, everywhere.
The Nodifix holds on it those who love you, those who affect you directly or indirectly.
We are all connected by a thread.

Thank you for reading
Baruk Allanu Feek
God bless you
Yevarechecha Hashem
Maharaj Kirpa





Dedicated to Simon Sane

God you would have hated this zine